

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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P R 061508Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7092

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, WB, GW, GE, UR, EB, UK, FR

SUBJECT: CELEBRATION OF WWII ANNIVERSARY

REF: USBER 2334

1. AT TRIPARTITE MEETING JANUARY 2, FRENCH AND UK EMBASSY REPS TOLD US THAT THEIR AMBASSADORS WOULD BE TAKING A FIRMLY NEGATIVE LINE ON THE WWII ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IDEA WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV IN EAST BERLIN ON JAN 6 AND 10 RESPECTIVELY. BOTH SAID THEIR INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT WERE UNIFORMLY TOUGH. US REP SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS TOOK SIMILARLY HARD APPROACH (STATE 276428).

2. IN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION BETWEEN EMBOFF AND SENIOR FRG FONOFF REP (BLECH) JANUARY 3, LATTER ASKED WHERE THIS ANNIVERSARY QUESTION NOW LAY. EMBOFF DESCRIBED PRESENT STATUS. BLECH SAID HE HOPED MATTER COULD BE LAID TO REST QUICKLY. HE REFERRED TO FONMIN GENSCHER'S
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VERY STRONG FEELINGS ON SUBJECT, NOTING THAT GENSCHER

HAD RAISED IT IN WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER, ARGUING AT THAT TIME THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH CELEBRATION ANYWHERE ON GERMAN SOIL. GENSCHER'S BELIEF IS, ACCORDING TO BLECH, THAT AN ALLIED VICTORY CELEBRATION COMING ALMOST 30 YEARS AFTER THE WAR COULD HAVE UNPLEASANT DOMESTIC REPERCUSSIONS AND AROUSE SENTIMENTS HARMFUL TO INTER-ALLIED RELATIONS AT A TIME WHEN NONE OF THE ALLIES NEEDS SUCH PROBLEMS.

3. COMMENT. WE ARE REPORTING BLECH'S FRANK COMMENTS, FOR THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A RANKING FRG REP HAS STATED TO US IN BONN SO CLEARLY THE GERMAN SENSITIVITY ON THIS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ISSUE. THERE ARE CLEARLY VERY STRONG FEELINGS INVOLVED ON THE GERMAN SIDE: THE FASTER WE GET THIS MATTER OFF THE AGENDA OF ALLIED-SOVIET TOPICS OF DISCUSSIONS ON GERMAN-RELATED AFFAIRS, THE BETTER THE WEST GERMANS ARE GOING TO LIKE IT.
CASH

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